

House Resolution 767

By: Representatives Williams of the 165th, Hugley of the 133rd, Watson of the 91st, Mosby of the 90th, James of the 135th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring and remembering the life of Bishop G. E. Patterson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the United States lost one of its finest spiritual leaders, scholars of religious
3 studies, and leaders of the community with the passing of Bishop G. E. Patterson; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson, who accepted his call to the Christian ministry at the age of
5 17, was the presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ, the nation's largest
6 African-American Pentecostal denomination; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he attended Lemoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee, and the Detroit
8 Bible Institute, received an honorary doctorate from Oral Roberts University, and acted as
9 the president of the Charles H. Mason Bible College; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he was ordained as an Elder in the Church of God in Christ in 1957 by Bishop
11 J. S. Bailey in Detroit, Michigan, and in 1962, Bishop Patterson became co-pastor with his
12 father at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ in Memphis, Tennessee, where he founded
13 Temple of Deliverance Church in 1975; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Temple of Deliverance Church became one of the nation's fastest growing
15 congregations with a current membership roll of over 13,000, and Bishop Patterson's ministry
16 touched the lives of millions through the church's televised Bountiful Blessings Ministries
17 program, which aired internationally on the BET and TBN cable networks and accumulated
18 a mailing list of over 100,000 active donors outside of the Memphis viewing area; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson was the president and general manager of the Memphis based
20 Radio Station WBBP, a full-time gospel station with over 100,000 daily listeners, and in July
21 2002, Whitaker House Publishers released Bishop Patterson's first book, *Here Comes The*
22 *Judge*; and

1 WHEREAS, Temple of Deliverance Church employs over 100 staff members and has over
2 100 local and national vendors, and it contributes to the community through a family
3 ministry with more than 40 telephone lines, a prison ministry that serves in the Criminal
4 Justice Center and the Penal Farm in Memphis, and through \$1,000 scholarships that it
5 awards to scores of students each year; and

6 WHEREAS, after he was elected bishop, he started Cogie Charities, which has raised more
7 than \$1 million to aid victims of disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, and Bishop Patterson
8 helped organize at least seven new churches throughout the country; and

9 WHEREAS, his immense devotion to his ministry and to his community was equaled only
10 by his loving devotion to his family, and he is survived by his wife of 40 years, Louise
11 Patterson; his three sisters, Mary Hawkins, Lee Ella Smith, and Barbara Davis; and a host
12 of relatives, friends, colleagues, and faithful believers; and

13 WHEREAS, as his vivid and inspirational words have brought hope and strength to millions
14 throughout the nation and around the world, it is fitting and proper to honor the memory of
15 one of the Lord's finest servants, Bishop G. E. Patterson.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
17 the members of this body join in honoring the memory of this distinguished spiritual leader,
18 Bishop G. E. Patterson, recognizing his many outstanding accomplishments, and extending
19 their sincerest condolences to his family.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
21 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Bishop G. E.
22 Patterson.